

up and it is impossible to give a date or even week when it might be done. There is a possibility that, if it cannot be done before school restarts, we may have to wait until next year.

However, some patching and other safety work is expected to be done to prevent major problems over next winter.

The Solar System Model is one of the several features in Otford that make it noteworthy. The brain-child of Mr David Thomas, commissioned by the parish council to mark the millennium, it has attracted attention from all over the world and now appears on Ordnance Survey maps. Some of those lucky enough to travel to other countries, mostly in the southern hemisphere, have seen the scale models of the "outlying" stars that are part of Otford's model in museums and observatories.

The parts of the model in Otford requires a little regular cleaning, and the orbits of some of the planets need mowing to enable visitors (and the rest of us) to appreciate something unique in the world, and we are looking for someone to assist in this work.

So we might say: "Parish council seeks volunteer to regularly visit planets and sun. Own transport. Training given. Must be fit and able to use lawnmower. Unique opportunity for Otford resident".

JGA



Registers



Baptism (Our Welcome)

23rd August Jamie Liam Lynch

Wedding (Our Congratulations)

1st August Danny Lee Pullen and Kimberley Anne Wills

15th August Robert Anthony Young and Katharine Ward

Funeral (Our Sympathy)

14th July Marion Nora Butt (aged 83)

Church Offerings in July 2009

Open Collections for charities and Church expenses£ 216.24

Freewill Offerings£ 5,194.00

UPHOLSTERY

Michael Meldan

Traditional and Modern Upholstery
Loose covers, repairs and renovations
A fine selection of quality fabrics

Greatness Mill, Mill Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent

01732 452828

p.m., with the AGM, followed by a talk on Ecclesiastical Embroidery, and looking at the collection of altar frontals. More information can be obtained from Sylvia Grafton on 01732 452117.

WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: Sevenoaks and District Branch: 2009-2010. Our courses of 10 or 20 weeks will start again in the week beginning 28th September 2009 and January 11th 2010. There will also be some Day Schools. Details are to be found in our brochure, together with a booking form, and this is available in your local library or on our website: www.weaeastkent.org. The following will be held in Otford:

- 20 week literature course, 'Written in Indian Ink', tutored by Christine Bett, in the Village Hall, starting at 10 am on 28th September 2009.
- A Day School, 'Rehearsing Arthur Miller: Into the Crucible', tutored by David Matthews, on Saturday 6th March 2010, four hours (incl. a lunch break) from 10.30 am, in the Otford Methodist Hall.

For further details or to book in advance, please contact Dorothy Palmer on 01959 522936.

SPOTLIGHT
ON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
Chairman: Mr John Allen
Parish Clerk: Mrs B. Darby. Tel: Otford 524808

The Pond At last permission has been given by SDC for work to restart on the pond. It was necessary first for a sample panel to be built for the Conservation Officer to inspect and give her permission for the style of pointing; this was rather different from what the contractor would have chosen but reflects some old pointing in Otford. Not, however, pointing on listed walls nearby. The crumbling mess of stonework that was pulled down with very little effort in 2006 had virtually no pointing left; it had apparently fallen out or was part of the cement smeared over the face of the stones in the work done fifty or sixty years ago, and so could not act as a guide for the present work.

There was also the matter of the type of brick to be used for capping the wall. The Conservation Officer chose a deep blood-red colour and, as all the old bricks had crumbled and faded or were stained with salts, no useful comparison could be made. The new bricks are hard, and unlike those put on sometime last century, should last much longer.

The sample panel and a brick were required to be photographed and emailed to the Planning Officer to show what was to be done. Such are the minutiae that take up time before work can be started.

There was a further hiccup before the pond could be emptied a little more to allow work to commence: the outlet pipe was blocked with willow roots. This had happened before but this time, after clearing, a plastic liner was inserted to beyond the point where roots are expected to travel, and this should prevent the problem reoccurring.

Car park resurfacing At present (early August) the weather is following the pattern of recent years and rain is frequent. As the resurfacing work needs a period of a few hours after laying to prevent ugly marking, this and the contractor's other work is held



OTFORD AFTERNOON W.I. We meet on the second Tuesday in the month in the Otford Village Memorial Hall at 2 p.m. We have a great variety of speakers and other interesting activities. On 8th September we look forward to 'Magic as an Entertainment, an afternoon of intriguing fun. Our publicity contact is

Joyce Shaw 01959 522736 - joyce.shaw@otford.net.

OTFORD EVENING WI. As well as enjoying the speakers and activities taking place in our own Institute, WI members benefit from the wider range of interests organized by the Pilgrim's Way District and West Kent Federation. One recent District outing was to Kew Gardens, which was declared a great day out. Craft workshops organized by the Federation take place regularly: for example, members can learn how to create a Hand-Tied Bouquet in September or the way of life in the Middle Ages can be discovered in October. So, being a member of WI opens the door to learning so much more. Details of forthcoming events are published in our in-house magazine, 'West Kent News', given to all members.

Come and find out what you are missing by being with us on 10th September when our speaker, a retired senior detective, will tell us about 'The Mystery of the Missing Nurse' – meetings start at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall and you will be made very welcome.

Brenda Young

OTFORD OAST W.I. – 'a modern voice for women'. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 17th September, when Jo Hall will talk on 'Fairtrade Crafts.' Jo, who founded 'The Bazaar', will tell us how she started her fair-trade crafts business after visiting India. There is a free crèche at every meeting. The first visit is free, second visit £3 and annual membership £29. Tea/coffee costs 50p. Bring a friend! Other regular activities include a book club, local walks and knitting.

Patsy Groom 01959 524156

'CELEBRATION OF LIFE' A FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS - St Katharine's Church in Main Road, Knockholt. Friday 18 September 9am – 5pm allowing mums to visit after delivering their youngsters to school. Saturday and Sunday 19 and 20 September 10am – 5pm

THE QUILLING GUILD is holding its National Display of work in Otford on Saturday 19th September 2009, preceded by the Annual General Meeting. The display of work by members of the Guild, both in the UK and from overseas, showcases the best modern quilling to be found in one location in England annually. The display of work will be open to the public from 2.00 – 4.30 pm and displays by groups from different regions of the UK can be viewed in the Village Hall. The Church Hall will display entries in the annual competitions entered by members. The winners in each category are voted for by the members in a secret vote and prizes are awarded. For further information please contact Janet Hunt 01959 523820.



SEVENOAKS EMBROIDERERS' GUILD. Our next meeting will be on September 26th in the Parish Church Centre. The morning session begins at 10.00 a.m. (UFOs and WIPs) and the afternoon session at 2.00

Who's who in the Parish Church . . .

- VICAR:** Revd Richard Worssam, M.A. The Vicarage, The Green, Otford 523185
READERS: Mr Andrew Bratby, 39 Tudor Drive, Otford 525060
 Mr Peter Downing, 3 Becketts Place, Otford 522327
 Miss Dawn Hallam, 10 Flowerfield, Otford 526865
 Mr Bill Lattimer, "Holmesdale", The Green, Otford 522058
 Mrs Margaret Lidbetter, 17 Leonard Avenue, Otford 524831
 Mr Brian Raynor, M.A., 5 Colets Orchard, Otford 523327
 Mrs Betty Reed, 66 Willow Park, Otford 523439
- PASTORAL ASSISTANTS:** Mrs Susan Reid, "Burway", Sevenoaks Road, Otford 523234
 Mrs Margaret Lidbetter, 17 Leonard Avenue, Otford 524831
 Mrs Donna Worssam, The Vicarage, Otford 523185
- HONORARY MINISTERS:** Revd. David Casiot, M.A., 52 High Street, Otford 522588
 Revd Chris Reed, M.A., 66 Willow Park, Otford 523439
- CHURCHWARDENS** Mr Derek Shilling, "Ivybank", Shoreham Road, Otford 522059
 Mrs Janet Hunt, 14 Knighton Road, Otford 523820

Organist and Choirmaster: Mr Kevin Grafton, M.A., F.C.A., 34 Dartford Road, Sevenoaks 452117
Sacristan: Mr Tony Grogan, 93 Willow Park Otford 523649

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Vice Chairman: Mr Derek Shilling
Hon. Secretary: Mrs Susan Reid, "Burway",
 Sevenoaks Road, Otford 523234
Hon. Treasurer: Mr Colin Fleetwood,
 "Lorien", St Michael's Drive, Otford 523582
Freewill Offering Fund: Mr Brian Beacom,
 39 Well Road, Otford 524304

PARISH OFFICE

Monday to Friday 10.30-12.30: Mrs Susan Reid,
 Mr Clive Southgate, Otford 523185
 Email: st.bartholomews@otford.net

CHURCH HALL

Manager and Booking Sec: Mr Robert Hunt,
 14 Knighton Road, Otford 523820

MAGAZINE

Acting Editor: Mr David Matthews
Hon. Treasurer: Mr John Miller, 7 Warham Road
 Otford 523943
Advertisements: Mrs Hilary Fothergill,
 7 Darnets Field, Otford 524120

BELLRINGERS: For all enquiries contact
The Tower Captain: Mrs Bobbie Fairclough,
 "Vailima", St Michael's Drive, Otford 522696
 or *Secretary:* Janet Whitehead, Otford 524088
 Practice night: Thursday 7.45-9.15pm

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK

'First Steps' (for parents and pre-schoolchildren)
Contact: Najen Harris, Otford 522813

SUNDAY CLUB (Sundays at 10.00am)

Juniors (3-7s): Joan Beacom, Ot. 524304
Middles (8-11s) Mags Southgate Ot. 524720
Seniors (12-14) Liz Cole Ot. 525404

FROGS (School years 7, 8 and 9)

Contact: Andrew Bratby, Ot. 525060

Young People's Fellowship

Contact: Dawn Hallam, Ot. 526865

OUTREACH

Chairman of Mission Committee:
 Mr David Matthews, 01732 462485
CMS Correspondent: Revd. David Casiot,
 Otford 522588
FEBA Correspondent: Miss Ruth Barclay,
 Otford 522882
 Children's Society:
Hon.Sec.: Mrs Sylvia Grafton, 01732 452117
 Otford Benevolent Society:
Almoner: Mrs Christine Brauns, Ot. 524474

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Vicar and Churchwardens, Mrs Sam Barnett, Mrs Joan Beacom, Mr Chris Bishop, Miss Liz Cole, Mr David Crawley, Mr Colin Fleetwood, Miss Dawn Hallam, Mr Mark Holmes, Mrs Vicki Howie, Mr Bill Lattimer, Mr David Matthews, Mr Clive Southgate, Mrs Margie Torry, Mr Steve Vigis, Ex-Officio (Deanery Synod): Mrs Margaret Lidbetter, Mrs Pat Mills, Mrs Susan Reid.

SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Sunday in the Month	8am	10.00am	5.00pm	6.30pm
FIRST	CW HC	Church Family Worship		Evensong
SECOND	CW HC	CW Holy Communion	cu@5	CW Evening Prayer
THIRD	CW HC	Morning Worship	cu@5	Evensong
FOURTH	BCP HC	CW Holy Communion	cu@5	CW Evening Prayer
FIFTH	-	-	-	-

CW = Common Worship. BCP = Book of Common Prayer. HC = Holy Communion

Sunday Mornings

SUNDAY CLUB (for ages 3-14) with three groups:

Junior (3-7); Middle (8-11); Senior (12-14) all meet in the Church Centre during the 10.00 a.m. service, except on first Sunday when in Church.

CRËCHE: 0-2 years (every Sunday)

Sunday Evenings

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP every Sunday evening during term time in the Church Centre at 6.30 p.m. (except the first Sunday)

FROGS: 11-14 years, first Sunday of month 6 p.m. in Church Hall

Weekdays

HOLY COMMUNION

Every Wednesday 10.00 a.m. (BCP)
Saints Days and Holy Days as announced

If you would like to book a baptism or wedding, please contact the Church Office.

VICAR'S REST DAY: Monday

SEPTEMBER 2009

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 - Morning Prayer is said in Church on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week at 9.00 a.m.
- 2 - 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 5 - 9.30 a.m. Churchyard Working Party
- 6 **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)
10.00 a.m. Church Family Worship (CW)
6.30 p.m. Evensong

Taking Tea at Westminster Abbey

On a gentle stroll to Westminster in English summer rain,
We sought for College Garden and we found it,
A green oasis sheltered by great walls from the London hubbub.
Here, in England's oldest garden,
A pair of ancient Planes in central pride of place
Stood sentinel over younger trees:
Mulberry, walnut, fig, apple and quince,
Whist the sturdy Kanzan cherry gazed over the intricacies of the dainty Knot Garden.
Jane Hedges, Canon of the Abbey, summoned us to tea.
We mingled with the Wardens from other far-flung parishes,
Our common bond, the Abbey as our Patron.
Then to Evensong in Gothic loveliness,
Where eye and voice are lifted heavenwards.
We found joy in the transient beauty of the music,
Held for an instant below the arching ceiling.
For the oldest boys their last time of treble excellence in this place,
An offering made under the watchful eyes of their proud parents.
'Lo, the Full Final Sacrifice', Finzi's masterpiece,
gave to them their last moment of soaring glory.
We left, filing past the tomb of him who made for our peace his own sacrifice,
That Unknown Warrior safe in the arms of Him who gives us God's peace.
And we entered the world again
And felt the English summer rain.

Gillian Shilling



OTFORD GARDENERS' SOCIETY. The next lecture will take place on Tuesday 1st September, when Ian Currie, weather columnist and broadcaster, will talk about 'The Colourful Side of Weather.' Lectures take place in the Otford Village Memorial Hall on Tuesdays at 8 pm, costing all 50p to members and £1 to non-members, including refreshments.

On Saturday 5th September in the Otford Village Memorial Hall from 2.15-4.15, the Society will hold its Autumn Flower and Craft Show, including vegetables, late flowers, photography, flower arrangements, handicrafts, art, cookery and junior classes. For details of all events, please contact the our Secretary, Janet Finney on 01959 523760, or e-mail gardeners@otford.net or visit our website www.otford.info/gardeners.

Living Heritage – a new Autumn Series of talks

Following on from last year's Autumn Series of talks entitled, "Living Stones" in which the Vicar looked at the history, theology and worship embedded in the fabric and architecture of St. Bartholomew's Church, this year the Autumn Series will be entitled, "Living Heritage". These talks will focus on the historical development of the Christian faith and the parish system in these Isles, from Roman times through the formative period of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms to the spirituality of the early medieval Church. The talks will draw on local history and archaeology, on Saxon texts and medieval wall paintings. You are warmly invited to come along and gain a deeper appreciation of the Living Heritage that has been entrusted to us.

The talks will be on four consecutive Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m. in the Church Centre: 29th September, 6th, 13th & 20th October.

HopeFest Churches working together

Churches in this area have been thinking about how to communicate the Christian message in a way that would have a greater impact than is possible for any individual church. Eighteen local churches, of all denominations, have decided to work together. Here in Otford, this includes St Bartholomew's, Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, and Otford Methodist Church.

We have asked a speaker from Birmingham, Rev. Nick Cuthbert, to lead a series of very high quality multi-media events on three Saturday evenings at the Stag Theatre this autumn. He will be assisted by a young team of professional performers, including some from this area. The dates are 21 November, 28 November and 5 December. In addition there will be a 'taster' evening - aimed mainly at local churchgoers - on 3 October.

The evenings will be entertaining and thought-provoking. Each will have a different theme. They will include music, drama, talks on topics which touch people's lives and interviews with some interesting people. Tickets will be available from the Stag Theatre, priced £2.50.

In addition, there will be 5 very different events in the lead up to the Stag Theatre evenings: a men's breakfast in Shoreham, a quiz night in Bessel's Green, a huge children's party in Greatness, a Christmas pudding-making evening in Sevenoaks, and a curry night at an Indian restaurant. Details of all of these, and the Stag evenings, are on our website (details below).

There is a parallel initiative for young people called 'KnowHope?' which is being organised by local youth leaders. There will be visits to local secondary schools in the week commencing 14 November, leading up to an event on the evening of Saturday 21 November in the Plaza Suite at the Stag: this will include music, cabaret and a speaker. If all this sounds exciting and worthwhile to you, why not take a look at the website and consider coming along to one or more events. Better still, bring a friend or neighbour. During September you should see a lot of publicity about HopeFest, so do look out for that.

Our website address is www.hopefest.org.uk.

Bill Lattimer

Bill is the chair of the HopeFest organising committee, and is a Reader at St Bartholomew's



7		Material for the October magazine by today, please, to David Matthews, 'Beech Coppice', London Road, Dunton Green Kent matthews.dg@lineone.net
9	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
	8.00 p.m.	PCC Meeting (Church Centre)
12	10-6.00 p.m.	Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Bike and Hike
13		The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity: Stewardship Sunday
	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
	5.00 p.m.	CU@5 (Church Centre)
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (CW)
16	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
	8.00 p.m.	"Hopefest" training evening (Church Centre)
17	2.30 p.m.	Homegroup (5 Colets Orchard)
20		The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity: Feba Sunday
	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
	10.00 a.m.	Morning Worship (CW)
	5.00 p.m.	CU@5 (Church Centre)
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
23	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
	8.00 p.m.	"Hopefest" training evening (Church Centre)
27		The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
	5.00 p.m.	CU@5 (Church Centre)
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (CW)
29	8.00 p.m.	"Living Heritage" - Talk 1 - Roman origins (Church Centre)
30	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
	8.00 p.m.	Ecumenical Committee (Vicarage)

Some early October dates

Morning Prayer will be said in Church on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays each week at 9.00 a.m.

3	9.30 a.m.	Churchyard Working Party
4		The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity: Harvest Festival
	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
	10.00 a.m.	Church Family Worship (CW)
	12.45 for 1 p.m.	Harvest Lunch
	5.00 p.m.	CU@5 (Church Centre)
	6.30 p.m.	Festal Evensong
5	8.00 p.m.	Mission Committee ('Beech Coppice')
6	8.00 p.m.	"Living Heritage" - Talk 2 - Anglo-Saxon foundations

TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS:

Please note that because of holiday arrangements, there will be a closing date of 7th September for the October magazine.

Vicar's Viewpoint



Dear Friends

When the Audit Commission evaluated Sevenoaks District Council under its comprehensive performance assessment scheme it came up with the judgement of "excellent". What was particularly interesting was the comment after the introductory paragraph: "According to the latest national customer satisfaction surveys, residents rate the street cleaning, refuse and recycling services as amongst the best anywhere in England." This gives pause for thought - that in an assessment of excellence, we begin with rubbish collection.

So what is a true measure of excellence or greatness? I'm sure you remember Muhammed Ali. His catch phrase was "I'm the greatest!". There is an apocryphal story that on one occasion a reporter, tired of hearing Muhammed Ali saying this all the time, asked, "How are you at golf?" to which Ali replied, "I'm the greatest - I just haven't played yet."

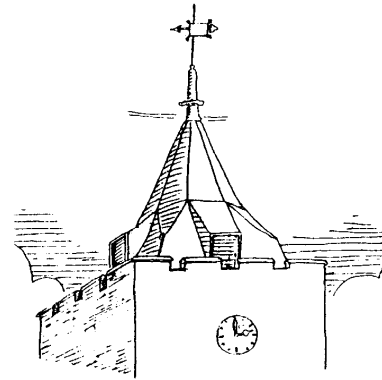
However, the quality of greatness or excellence is not just in our own self-assessment. We need an objective measurement. Moreover, this has to be accurate, unlike the boy who said to his mum, "Mum, guess what, I'm 8 ft tall!" His mother, greatly surprised, asked him how he had worked this out, and discovered that he was using a 6" ruler to measure 1 ft. He was, in fact, just over 4 ft.

So what is the best measure of excellence? Jesus once spoke about this on one occasion. Two of his disciples, James and John, wanted positions of greatness, and so they asked to sit one at his left side and the other on his right side in glory. To which Jesus replied, "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve." (Mark 10:43-45)

And so I come back to refuse collection. This is not the most glamorous of jobs, and yet it is absolutely vital. It is a great example of service, and as the audit commission has pointed out, herein lies excellence.

Your friend and Vicar,

Richard Worssam



FROM
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

Special thanks go to Ken Wood, now that he has finished his long and devoted service as a Sidesman.

The Church Hall. Major works to the Church Hall are nearly complete. The improvements include: new fire doors to both side and main halls, creating two possible new entrances/exits; alterations to the access into the halls; removal of the metal ramp; safer paths; external lighting and the rebuilding of one

toilet to modern standards, including wheelchair access and baby changing facilities.

The Hall will be open for viewing on Saturday 5th September, when there will be a working party in the Hall, to clean and prepare it for use once more by the numerous groups and organisations who have regular bookings. If you are able to spare an hour, then your help would be much appreciated.

Janet Hunt

Holy Communion

Following the recent guidance from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in relation to public health during the present concerns over swine flu, Bishops Michael and Brian have recommended that the administration of the chalice be suspended. As a result communion of both kinds will now be administered by way of intinction. This means that the celebrant will personally intinct the wafers by dipping them in the chalice before placing them in the hands of the communicants. A copy of the Bishops' letter is displayed on the notice boards.

'First Steps'

This lively group for babies, toddlers and their carers is always pleased to welcome new members. It is run by the Methodist and our own Church and includes the opportunity for a chat, refreshment and also a short Bible story, with singing and activities for the children, including games and craft. It meets at the Methodist Church Hall and the next meetings are to be held on Wednesdays 9th and 23rd September from 9.30-11.30 a.m.

CU@5 Informal Service

This popular weekly service recommences on Sunday 13th September at 5 pm in the Church Centre. Do go along if you haven't been already.



The Friends of Kent Churches will hold a sponsored ride and walk on Saturday 12th September between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Simon Wragg would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to take part by either cycling or walking. Potential sponsors will also be most welcome. If anyone could man the desk for an hour or two they can be sponsored as well. Please see Simon in Church, telephone him on 01732 462953 or take a yellow form from the back of church.